WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore

229. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement was recently signed with the Singapore Government;

(b) what will be the impact of this Agreement on trading of items in the Negative List like liquor, beer etc.; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) has been signed between India and Singapore by Prime Ministers of the two countries on 29th June, 2005 in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) India's offer to Singapore in Trade in Goods udner CECA has 6,551 products at the 8-digit Harmonised System (HS Code) in the negative list where no concessions in import duty have been given. Keeping in view the sensitivities of the domestic industry, liquor, beer and other alcoholic beverages have been kept in the negative list. The products in the negative list would continue to be imported on the normal applied rates of import duty and as such, CECA is not likely to have any impact on the import of these items. All Indian products have been given market access at zero duty by Singapore under this agreement.

Import of cheap products

† 230. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cheap products which have heavy subsidy from various developed countries are being imported and dumped in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any strategy to check cheap imports with a view to protecting the interests of domestic industry and the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when arrangements would be made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) In order to counteract, trade distortion caused by dumping/subsidy and the consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Government has set up the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) to conduct anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations and make recommendations to the Central Government for imposition of antidumping or countervailing measures, where appropriate. The Government has also set up the Directorate General of Safeguards under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance to investigate and recommend safeguard duty when faced with situation of increased imports of any commodity which causes or threatens to cause serious injury to domestic producers. Besides, imports of commodities declared as sensitive are constantly being monitored by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). DGAD has from 1992 till date initiated 185 anti-dumping investigations involving various countries. In these cases, final findings have been issued in 162 cases, preliminary findings in 2 **cases** and 12 cases are under investigations for issue of preliminary/ final findings. 9 cases have been closed after initiation. The Directorate General of Safeguards has so far carried out 18 investigations and measures have been recommended in 11 cases.

Permission to visit Sharda Mata Shrine

† 231. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received representations from organisations of Kashmiri Pandit for visiting Sharda Mata Shrine located in PoK;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.